

Day 281 - SUNDAY: November 5th

1 Samuel 16

1 Samuel 16:1-23 NKJV

Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons." And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." But the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you." So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice. So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!" But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till

he comes here." So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah. But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well." So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me." Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him." Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep." And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul. So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer. Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight." And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

Daily Deep Dive:

The UCG reading program states: "The search for a new king begins appropriately enough in Bethlehem, meaning "House of Bread," for out of David's lineage would spring the Messiah, the true bread from heaven

(1 Samuel 16:1-4; Micah 5:2; John 6:58). Bethlehem had been the town of Ruth and Boaz. Indeed, Jesse and his family were their direct descendants.

Young David was a man after God's own heart, who, unlike Saul, would perform all of God's will (Acts 13:22; Psalm 40:8). The fact that God sought those who would serve Him with all their heart was well known (12:20; 13:14; Deuteronomy 6:5). We would do well to emulate this desired quality in our own lives by studying David's relationship with God.

The name David means "Beloved." His name is mentioned more than a thousand times in the Scriptures. David as shepherd (1 Samuel 16:11) was a picture of Jesus Christ. First of all, Jesus is the *Good* Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep (John 10:11; Psalm 22). Secondly, Jesus is the *Great* Shepherd who rules from heaven interceding with the Father for us (Hebrews 13:20; Psalm 23). And finally, Jesus is the *Chief* Shepherd who brings the Kingdom of God, rewarding His own (1 Peter 5:4; Isaiah 40:11; Psalm 80:1).

David was anointed, i.e. set apart for a special purpose, by Samuel (1 Samuel 16:13). Actually, this was the first of three anointings of David revealed in the Scriptures. You can read of the second anointing that takes place on the occasion of David assuming the kingship of Judah in 2 Samuel 2:4. And he is later anointed king of all Israel in 2 Samuel 5:3. Saul, on the other hand, is rejected by God. The departure of God's Spirit leaves him in a terrible spiritual, mental and emotional state. And to start with, Saul was a man who exhibited weakness in his character, such as needing the approval of men (1 Samuel 15:30). The removal of God's Spirit only made things worse.

Amazingly, David, a talented shepherd boy, had already achieved notoriety at a young age, not only for his musical ability, but also for his fighting skills (verse 18). He was a levelheaded, handsome young man

with a pleasing personality—a natural to be chosen to perform in the court of the king. Saul immediately took to David with a real affection, making him his armor-bearer. David's performance of soothing music on the harp was able to settle and refresh the disturbed state of Saul's mind.” [END]

Verse 1 – This verse seems to indicate that God understood Samuel initially being heartbroken as Saul’s disobedience and ultimate rejection, but that at some point his continued grieving had gone on too long. He needed to be in alignment with what God was doing and get on with his work for Him.

Verse 4 – Why were the elders afraid? The JFB commentary states: “Beth-lehem was an obscure town, and not within the usual circuit of the judge. The elders were naturally apprehensive, therefore, that his arrival was occasioned by some extraordinary reason, and that it might entail evil upon their town, in consequence of the estrangement between Samuel and the king.” [END]

John Gill’s commentary adds: “for he being now an old man, and seldom went abroad, they concluded it must be something very extraordinary that brought him thither; and they might fear that as he was a prophet of the Lord, that he was come to reprove them, or denounce some judgment upon them for their sins.” [END]

Verse 5 – In Exodus 19:14 the people sanctified themselves by washing their clothes. Adam Clarke’s commentary states: “Change your clothes, and wash your bodies in pure water, and prepare your minds by meditation, reflection, and prayer;”

Verse 6 – Eliab (aka Elihu (compare 1 Chronicles 27:18)) was Jesse’s firstborn son (see 1 Chronicles 2:13 & 1 Samuel 17:13).

Verse 9 – Shammah (aka Shimeah in 1 Chronicles 2:13) was the third son (see 1 Samuel 17:13).

Verse 12 – Here we are introduced to David. Jewish historian Josephus says that David was 10 years old here, while others believe he was upwards of 15. I think 15 is the absolute oldest he could be. Later we will see that only the three oldest sons named in this section go off to fight the Philistines (1 Samuel 17:13). In Israel you had to be 20 years old to go to war (compared Number 1:42). So if David had 7 brothers and 3 were of fighting age, that left 4 older than him that were under 20. If we assume his mother had 1 son a year, that would make David 15 years old. Either way, he was young when he was selected by God to be the next king.

David is here called “ruddy”. This Hebrew word comes from the root “adam” and here means “reddish (of hair or complexion)” (Strongs). This was first said about Esau in Genesis 25:25. It will only be used one more time in the Bible in 1 Samuel 17:42 (again about David).

Verse 13 – It’s worth focusing on the fact that David has God’s Holy Spirit from this point after being anointed by God’s servant Samuel. We will see immediately in verse 14 that God’s Spirit leaves Saul, yet God left Saul in power for a long time. It was only God who would decide when to remove Saul as King.

Verse 21 – Regarding David being selected to be Saul’s armorbearer, John Gill’s commentary states: “hat is, he appointed him to this office, though we never read that he exercised it; nor did he go with Saul in this capacity to the battle related in the following chapter: it may be literally rendered: "and he was to him a bearer of vessels", or "instruments"; and

Abarbinel thinks this is to be understood not of instruments of war, but of instruments of music to play with; which he brought in and bare before him when he went in to the king.” [END]

I think this commentary is correct. In the 325 times this Hebrew word is used, it is most often translated as “vessel” (166x KJV) and “instrument” (39x KJV) and it here immediately followed in the Hebrew with the word meaning “to lift or take up”. It’s likely here simply saying that he became someone who took up an instrument for Saul and this seems to fit the context the most since it’s why he was called before Saul at this time.